

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners,

Stop conservative nbc,abc,cnn from calling kerry ads as growing increasingly negative. Media outlets have an obligation to report not spin or give opinions. For too long of a time bushs perspective and alleged balanced interviews sway to bushs side regularly. The bush administration was not perfect and missed on certain issues that are being put into its required light for review of his record as our president especially when asking for a second term.

As a citizen who wants to be informed about the political and electoral issues that affect my life, I am greatly disappointed by the lack of informative television programming.

Local public affairs programming is virtually non-existent--constituting less than one half of 1% of all local programming. More than half of news broadcasts prior to the 2002 elections did not include a single campaign story. Our democracy is at risk when many Americans don't know basic facts about the candidates or the issues, as was the case in the 2000 elections.

Since broadcasters have clearly failed in their obligation to serve the public interest, the FCC should define meaningful public interest requirements that include local civic and electoral affairs programming. At a minimum, broadcasters should air three hours per week of local civic and electoral affairs programming, with at least two hours devoted to substantive election coverage in the six weeks prior to Election Day.

As the elections approach, a well-functioning democracy demands that citizens have access to a diversity of opinions and voices on the choices confronting us.

Sincerely,

barbara schneider
69-65 180th st
flushing, NY 113653529